



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

Randolph Hobson Guthrie Sentenced in Federal Court

ICE agents, Chinese authorities use “Operation Spring” to catch DVD pirate

Hattiesburg, Ms.—Michael A. Holt, Special Agent in Charge of ICE in New Orleans and Dunn Lampton, U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, today announced that Randolph Hobson Guthrie was sentenced in U. S. District Court to 60 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release, and a \$15,000 fine for conspiracy to import more than 2,000 DVDs containing unauthorized copies of motion pictures. Guthrie received credit for the 15 months he served in a Chinese prison for a total of 45 months to serve.

Guthrie pled guilty in January 2006, to an 18-count indictment charging him with criminal copyright and trademark infringement, illegally importing infringing goods, and money laundering. The indictment was the product of “Operation Spring”—a joint criminal law enforcement effort between ICE agents and Chinese law enforcement authorities first launched in September 2003.

The investigation, initiated by the ICE resident agent-in-charge in Gulfport, Miss., grew to include the ICE Attaché in Beijing, China, the ICE Office of Investigations in Houston and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center. Based on information agents obtained during the course of their investigation concerning criminal activities occurring in China by Guthrie and others, ICE agents contacted Chinese law enforcement authorities shortly after Operation Spring was launched, leading to a partnership with the Shanghai Public Security Bureau of the Economic Crime Investigation Department of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security.

“As the first joint counterfeiting investigation by ICE and Chinese authorities, this landmark case will serve as a roadmap for future intellectual property investigations,” said New Orleans ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Michael A. Holt.

As a result of this unprecedented joint effort, Guthrie, along with three coconspirators—including two Chinese nationals and another U.S. citizen—was convicted in April 2005 in the Supreme People’s Court in China for selling more than 133,000-pirated motion picture DVDs to customers in

over 20 countries around the world. Guthrie was sentenced to 30 months in Chinese prison, fined approximately \$60,000 and deported after serving his term.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.